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THE MEETING OF THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC HELD AT BERKELEY ON AUGUST 4-6, 1921, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PACIFIC DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

The fifth annual meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which was held at Berkeley on August 4-6, had the largest attendance of any since the organization of the Division. The total registration, which always falls short of the actual attendance, showed that approximately 500 active and associate members were present. The Pacific area is a large one and the expense of traveling under present conditions is great, but delegates came from institutions in Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, Nevada and Utah as well as from those in all parts of California.

The function of such gatherings as this is two-fold; to furnish fresh inspiration to the men and women engaged in scientific research and to bring these workers into closer touch with the general public. At the Berkeley meeting the addresses at the general sessions of the Division on Thursday and Friday afternoons and on Thursday evening were admirably adapted to lead the intelligent public to a better appreciation of the attitude of mind of research workers and of the great object they hold in view in all their work—to serve humanity.

The addresses of welcome by Mayor Louis Bartlett, of Berkeley, and President David P. Barrows, of the University of California, and the address of the retiring president of the Division, Dr. William E. Ritter, on "Scientific Idealism," on Thursday evening, emphasized this attitude and object from one point of view. Professor Henry Norris Russell's address on "The Properties of Matter as Illustrated by the Stars," on Friday afternoon presented them from a different viewpoint; while still a third aspect was offered by the six addresses comprising the symposium on "Science and the Public Health" held on Thursday afternoon. These addresses were all given in the main auditorium in Wheeler Hall before large audiences.

Among the resolutions adopted by the Pacific Division* at this meeting was one that well illustrates the attitude of scientific re-

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*These will be printed in full in *Science*.

search workers toward public affairs. This was the resolution heartily commending President Harding and his administration for calling the International Conference on Disarmament. We are not pacifists, as Dr. Ritter well said in presenting the resolution. In time of war we stand ready to help our government to the utmost. But in times of peace it is equally our duty and our desire to do all we can to bring about such a condition of world affairs that war may be forever banished.

The Conferences on Research, held at the luncheons at the Faculty Club on Thursday and Friday, were a feature of the session, the address by Dr. John C. Merriam, President of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, being especially notable.

The separate section meetings for the presentation of the more technical papers were all well attended. Members of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific were present, by invitation, at the meeting of the American Physical Society on Thursday forenoon, and the physicists, in turn, attended our own meetings on Friday and Saturday mornings. A number of the papers presented at our meetings are printed, in full or by abstract, in this number of the PUBLICATIONS. In addition, the following were read:

EFFECTS OF COMBINED MAGNETIC AND ELECTRIC FIELDS ON RADIATION. George E. Hale, Mount Wilson Observatory, Pasadena, California.

THE SPECTRUM OF VENUS. V. M. Slipher, Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona.

RESULTS OF EFFORTS TO DETERMINE THE DEFLECTION OF STELLAR RAYS IN THE SUN'S GRAVITATIONAL FIELD from Photographs secured at the Total Solar Eclipses of May 28, 1900, and June 8, 1918. W. W. Campbell, Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, California.

THE APPEARANCE OF NOVAE IN THE CHINESE AND EUROPEAN ANCIENT RECORDS. Knut Lundmark, Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, California.

PHOTOGRAPHIC OBSERVATIONS OF THE LIGHT OF NOVA PERSEI NO. 2, 1917-1921. C. O. Lampland, Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona.

REMARKS ON OBSERVATIONS OF NEBULAE FOR DETECTION OF CHANGES. C. O. Lampland, Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona.

SOME NEW PHENOMENA IN CONNECTION WITH THE EARTH'S TRANSIT OF THE PLANE OF THE RINGS OF SATURN IN 1920-1921. E. C. Slipher, Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE AURORA OF MAY 14, 1921. E. C. Slipher, Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona.

PRELIMINARY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FIRST REPORT OF THE COMET COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION. A. O. Leuschner, Students' Observatory, University of California, Berkeley, California.

COMET C 1919, METCALF-BORRELLY (An account prepared at the suggestion of the Chairman of the Committee on Comets). W. F. Meyer, Students' Observatory, University of California, Berkeley, California.

THE ORBIT OF COMET B 1921 (Pons-Winnecke). R. T. Crawford, Students' Observatory, University of California, Berkeley, California.

INDETERMINATE CASES IN THE ORBIT PROBLEM. Priscilla Fairfield, Students' Observatory, University of California, Berkeley, California.

NOTE ON R. U. CANUM VENATICORUM. S. D. Townley, Stanford University, California.

AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ORBITS OF THE TWO COMPONENTS OF TAYLOR'S COMET, 1916 I. H. M. Jeffers, Iowa State University, Iowa City, Iowa.

It will be noted that several of these papers are reports of advances on the very frontier lines of astronomical research, while others give encouraging accounts of progress in the development of fields already occupied. We may also consider Professor Russell's address, which will be published in a later number of these PUBLICATIONS, as a contribution from our Society to the success of the Berkeley meeting of the Pacific Division.

Among the many excursions arranged for Saturday afternoon was one to the Lick Observatory, in which about 30 participated.

At the banquet on Friday evening the gratifying announcement was made that Dr. George E. Hale had been elected President of the Division for the coming year.